

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2122

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5663

PLEASE PASS CHARLES CONNEELY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SCOTT, WILLIAM L.)

SUBJECT: CODEL SCOTT VISIT

SUMMARY: SENATOR SCOTT MET WITH KING KHALID AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD DURING HIS VISIT. THE MEETINGS TOUCHED UPON OIL, BUT DEALT MAINLY WITH IMPORTANCE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SAG. PRINCE FAHD IN PARTICULAR DWELT UPON THIS SUBJECT, MENTIONING FRENCH ARMS SALES OVERTURES DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO FRANCE. THE SAUDIS WERE PLEASED BY THE VISIT WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE.

1. CODEL SCOTT ARRIVED IN JIDDA EVENING OF AUGUST 9, FLEW TO TAIF THE 10TH AND RETURNED THE SAME DAY, AND DEPARTED JIDDA AUGUST 11, 0900.

2. AFTER EMBASSY BRIEFINGS SATURDAY EVENING, SENATOR AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CHARGE MET WITH KING KHALID SUNDAY AUGUST 10. SENATOR

STATED THAT US WAS CONCERNED SOLUTION TO ME CONFLICT AND THAT THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BEST BY CONCESSIONS FROM BOTH SIDES. US LEARNED LESSON FROM VIETNAM NOT TO FRITTER AWAY ITS MILITARY AND POLITICAL CAPITAL CAPITAL IN LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS. IT WOULD USE FULL POWER AND AUTHORITY IN ANY SIMILAR SITUATION IN FUTURE TO ACHIEVE VICTORY IN SHORTEST TIME POSSIBLE. KING KHALID RESPONDED BY WISHING US SUCCESSION IN PEACEMAKING ACTIVITIES AND STRESSED SAG WISHED FOR PEACE IN ME. HM BELIEVED PEACE WOULD COME ABOUT WITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND JERUSALEM AND ITS RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. HM PLEASED AT CURRENT STATE OF US-SAUDI RELATIONS, BUT HOPED THAT USG WOULD GIVE MORE CONSISTENT SUPPORT TO JORDAN AND TURKEY. SENATOR SCOTT TOLD THE KING THAT THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA BOTH WERE CONCERNED WITH WITHSTANDING THE COMMUNIST THREAT. THE SENATOR SAW THIS THREAT EVEN MORE MENACING IF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE WORSENED OR REMAINED DEPRESSED. FOR THIS REASON HE URGED THAT KING KHALID KEEP THE PRICE OF OIL FROM RISING BECAUSE THIS WOULD PLACE THE FREE WORLD ECONOMY UNDER GREAT STRAIN. THE KING SAID THREAT MODERATION IN OIL PRICES WAS VERY MUCH SAUDI ARABIA'S POLICY; HE SAID THAT HE WOULD GIVE US HELP ON OIL PRICES, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE ITS GOOD EFFORTS IN ME.

3. IN THE MEETING WHICH FOLLOWED WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD, THE SENATOR STATED THAT HE FAVORED A BALANCED APPROACH TO THE ARAB ISRAELI PROBLEM. HE REMARKED THAT US AND SA HAD COMMON GOALS; TO RESIST THE ADVANCE OF COMMUNISM AND TO SECURE A LASTING PEACE IN ME. PRINCE FAHD RESPONDED THAT SA WISHED FOR PEACE PROVIDING THAT THE PALESTINIANS WERE RECOGNIZED BY ISRAEL. HIS HIGHNESS STATED THAT SAG STILL MUCH OPPOSED TO SOVIET PRESSURES AND THAT SAG HAD SET A PRECEDENT ALMOST 40 YEARS AGO BY BREAKING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH USSR. SENATOR SCOTT SAID THAT THE US WISHED TO CONTINUE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SAG. PRINCE FAHD REPLIED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY GONE TO FRANCE AND HAD BEEN SHOWN MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRENCH MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BUT HAD LET THE FRENCH KNOW THAT HE PREFERRED US EQUIPMENT. HE SAID ALSO THAT THE USSR EAGERLY

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SELL SAUDIS EQUIPMENT IF GIVEN THE CHANCE, BUT THAT BESIDES IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES SOVIETS INSIST ON TOO MUCH CONTROL AND PRESENCE IN COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY GIVE MILITARY AID. PRINCE FAHD THEN REPEATED KING KHALID'S REMARK THAT US AID AND EQUIPMENT IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD. HE ADDED THAT US RESPONSE TO SAG MILITARY REQUESTS WAS GETTING SOMEWHAT BETTER AND THAT US WAS MORE COOPERATIVE THAN BEFORE IN PLACING SAUDIS IN TRAINING SLOTS

IN US. HOWEVER, HE SAID RAPID EVOLUTION OF BASIC MILITARY EQUIPMENT POSED PROBLEMS FOR SAUDIS. SENATOR SCOTT EXPLAINED THAT RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF BASIC MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAS ALSO A PROBLEM FOR US ARMED FORCES, BUT THAT IF ONE WANTED TO BE EQUIPPED WITH THE VERY BEST AND MOST SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, THERE WAS UNFORTUNATELY NO ALTERNATIVES. HIS HIGHNESS AGREED.

4. SAUDIS WERE PLEASED WITH SCOTT VISIT WHICH CARRIED EXTENSIVELY IN RADIO, PRESS, AND TV. THEY CONSIDERED HIM A FRIEND OF SAUDI ARABIA AND BALANCED AND OPEN-MINDED ON PROBLEMS OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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